

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. I like to know what I'm paying for when I pay for something. I DETEST that some of my utilities don't itemize or explain some of their surcharges, that can add up to \$5 a month! I have one home phone and two cell phones. My single bill for the two cell phones runs some 20 pages. The fees and surcharges tend not to be itemized and this is disturbing. Also, they don't explain how they arrive at the regulatory surcharge they are allowed to charge. This must change. You CAN and MUST change this hiding of fees on cell and land line telephony!

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.